



**Amarillo College**

*Associate Degree Nursing*

To: All Currently Enrolled ADN Program Students (Students in nursing courses)  
All ADN Majors who are seeking admission to the program

From: Richard Pullen  
ADN Program Director

Date: December 1, 2014

Subject: Reduction in Total Program Hours in the ADN Program

**I have heard that the ADN Program is decreasing Total Program Hours. Is this true?**

Yes.

**Why is there going to be a reduction in Total Program Hours?**

In response to the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature mandate for associate degree programs' semester credit hours (SCH), the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has limited the number of SCHs required for all associate degrees to no more than the minimum amount required by the appropriate accrediting agency. The minimum requirement for a degree at the associate level of Amarillo College's accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on College's (SACSCOC), is 60 semester credit hours.

**How did the ADN Program make decisions about the reduction in Total Program Hours?**

The ADN Program Curriculum Committee and Faculty Organization conducted a year-long total curriculum analysis to arrive at the revised program of study (60-hour program). The 60-hour curriculum was approved by the Amarillo College Curriculum Committee and Texas Board of Nursing.

**What are the benefits of a reduction in Total Program Hours?**

Students will benefit from the reduction to a 60 SCH curriculum by decreasing their stress associated with excessive credit hours, enhancing faculty and student engagement in the learning process, and improve retention. It will also reduce costs for students, and saves State funding.

**When will the reduction in Total Program Hours start?**

The THECB has mandated that all associate degree programs implement a 60-hour curriculum by fall semester 2015. Student advising will begin in January 2015 during the spring 2015 semester.

**I am currently taking nursing courses in the ADN Program. Will I know specifically how the reduction in Total Program Hours affects me?**

Yes. The ADN Leadership Team and Academic Advisor (Mrs. Susan Holstun McClure) will meet with students in early spring 2015 semester to show them how the reduction in Total Program Hours will affect them based upon when they started in the program. Students are assured that a reduction in Total Program Hours is intended to decrease their stress to promote learning.

**Will the ADN Program still have three tracks?**

The ADN Program will still have a five-semester Generic (Traditional) Track.

The Fast Forward Generic (Traditional) Track admitted its last cohort of students in summer 2014. The Fast Forward Generic (Traditional) students admitted in summer 2014 are slated to graduate in fall 2015. The Fast Forward Generic Track will no longer be an option after the last cohort of students graduate (those admitted in summer 2014).

The current Fast Forward Transition Option (LVN to RN) admits students once each year in December. A cohort of students will be admitted to this option in December 2014. In spring 2016, the ADN Program will begin to admit Transition students in spring and fall semesters (twice yearly).

**I plan to attend an Advising Session in spring 2015 so that I can apply for program admission. What do I need to do?**

Schedule an Advising Session by contacting the ADN Program at 354-6010. You can also visit the ADN Program website at <http://www.actx.edu/nursing/adn> to see the dates of Advising Sessions. You are also encouraged to contact Mrs. Susan McClure, Academic Advisor at 356-3603. You may also visit with Mrs. McClure in her office by coming to the Nursing Office. Mrs. McClure visits with students on a first-come first-served basis. The Nursing Office is located on the West Campus of Amarillo, Jones Hall, second floor, room 251.

Thank you